

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	No. 4:20-CR-00312 AGF
)	
MONTE KENT,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

GUILTY PLEA AGREEMENT

The parties hereby agree as follows:

1. PARTIES:

The parties are Defendant Monte Kent, represented by defense counsel Brent Labovitz, and the United States of America (hereinafter "United States" or "Government"), represented by the Office of the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. This agreement does not, and is not intended to, bind any governmental office or agency other than the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri. The Court is neither a party to nor bound by this agreement.

2. GUILTY PLEA:

A. The Plea: Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(A), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, in exchange for Defendant's voluntary plea of guilty to Counts One and Two of the Indictment (the two charges in the Indictment against Defendant), the United States agrees that no further federal prosecution will be brought in this District relative to Defendant's

violations of federal law, known to the United States at this time, arising out of the events set forth in the Indictment.

B. The Sentence: The parties agree that the recommendations contained herein fairly and accurately set forth some guidelines that may be applicable to this case. Defendant fully understands that the crime to which a guilty plea is being entered into with respect to Count Two requires a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 84 months, consecutive to any other sentence imposed. The parties further agree that the United States shall not request a sentence above 144 months (twelve years) unless Defendant is determined to be a Career Offender (in which case this limitation shall not apply). Defendant may request a sentence below the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines range (combination of Total Offense Level and Criminal History Category) ultimately determined by the Court pursuant to any chapter of the Guidelines, Title 18, United States Code, Section 3553, or any other provision or rule of law not addressed herein. Any notice of such request will be given no later than ten (10) days prior to sentencing and that said notice shall specify the legal and factual bases for the request. The parties understand that the Court is neither a party to nor bound by the Guidelines recommendations agreed to in this document.

3. ELEMENTS:

As to Counts One, Defendant admits to knowingly violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 1951, and admits there is a factual basis for the plea and further fully understands that the elements of the crime are:

- (i) Defendant obtained, or attempted to obtain property, from a commercial establishment engaged in interstate or foreign commerce;

- (ii) Defendant did so in the presence of another and against their will, through the wrongful use of actual or threatened force, violence, or fear of injury; and,
- (iii) As a result of Defendant's actions, interstate commerce was obstructed, delayed, or affected.

As to Count Two, Defendant admits to knowingly violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 924(c)(1)(A), as punishable under Section 924(c)(1)(A)(ii), and admits there is a factual basis for the plea and further fully understands that the elements of the crime are:

- (i) Defendant committed the crime of armed robbery as set forth in Count One of the Indictment;
- (ii) Defendant knowingly possessed and brandished a firearm in furtherance of that crime.

4. **FACTS:**

The parties agree that the facts in this case are as follows and that the United States would prove these facts beyond a reasonable doubt if the case were to go to trial. These facts may be considered as relevant conduct pursuant to Section 1B1.3:

On June 21, 2020, Defendant Monte Kent drove to the 7-Eleven at 5350 Chippewa Street in the City of St. Louis, which is within the Eastern District of Missouri, with his passenger and accomplice, Harvey Cameron, in order to rob the store. The 7-Eleven was (and remains) a commercial establishment engaged in interstate or foreign commerce and in the business of buying and selling articles and commodities that have been previously transported in interstate or foreign commerce. When Defendant and Cameron pulled up to the store, Cameron got out of the vehicle with a Zastava 7.62 rifle (the magazine to that rifle contained

thirty rounds). During the robbery, Defendant functioned as the getaway driver, remaining outside of the store in the getaway vehicle until after the robbery. However, Defendant knowingly acted with Cameron to complete the robbery, aiding and abetting him. Defendant was aware that Cameron intended to brandish a firearm during the robbery (a crime of violence), and knowingly acted to further both the robbery and the brandishing.

Cameron then went into the store and pointed the rifle at a store employee, demanding the cash register drawer. In doing so, Defendant and Cameron were using force to accomplish the robbery. The store employee then complied with the demands, placing the cash register drawer and cash in a black plastic bag. However, the store employee also put several packs of Newport cigarettes, including a pack with a GPS tracking device, in the bag. Defendant and Cameron then fled the 7-Eleven in the getaway vehicle with cash and property belonging to the commercial establishment. In doing so, Defendant and Cameron's actions affected commerce.

Due to the tracking device, officers were able to locate the getaway vehicle shortly after the robbery. At the time, Defendant had parked the getaway vehicle. However, Defendant and Cameron drove off after seeing officers, speeding and driving recklessly in the City of St. Louis (recklessly endangering others as they did so). Eventually, Defendant and Cameron ended up in a dead-end, which turned into a cul-de-sac. Both Defendant and Cameron then fled on foot but were both eventually apprehended. Notably, a search of the getaway vehicle resulted in officers seizing the cash, cash register drawer, Newport cigarettes (including the pack with the GPS tracker), and the Zastava 7.62 rifle, each referred to above. Defendant admits that Zastava 7.62 rifle is a firearm under federal law in that it can expel a projectile by

the action of an explosive and that he acted with Cameron in brandishing that firearm to further the robbery described above.

Additionally, it is the United States' position (and officers would testify) that when Defendant was being booked at the station, Defendant again resisted arrest, physically resisting restraints and spitting on officers. It is also the United States' position (and officers would testify) that Defendant stated that he would take an extra charge to punch the officer that arrested him. Defendant is aware the United States' position on these issues, and in exchange for the United States not asking for above twelve years at sentencing, Defendant agrees not to contest these issues.

5. STATUTORY PENALTIES:

As to Count One, Defendant fully understands that the maximum possible penalty provided by law for each of the crimes to which Defendant is pleading guilty is imprisonment of not more than 20 years, a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both such imprisonment and fine. The Court shall also impose a period of supervised release of not more than 3 years.

As to Count Two, Defendant fully understands that the maximum possible penalty provided by law for the crimes to which Defendant is pleading guilty is imprisonment of not less than 7 years and not more than life, a fine of not more than \$250,000, or both such imprisonment and fine. The Court shall also impose a period of supervised release of not more than 5 years. Defendant also fully understands that the crime to which a guilty plea is being entered require a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of at least 7 years. Defendant fully understands that this sentence of 7 years (84 months) is required by law to run consecutively to any other sentence.

6. U.S. SENTENCING GUIDELINES: 2018 MANUAL:

Defendant understands that this offense is affected by the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and the actual sentencing range is determined by both the Total Offense Level and the Criminal History Category. The parties agree that the following are the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Total Offense Level provisions that apply.

A. Offense Conduct:

COUNT ONE: INTERFERENCE WITH INTERSTATE OR FOREIGN COMMERCE BY ROBBERY

(i) **Base Offense Level:** The parties agree that the base offense level for Count One is 20, as found in Section 2B3.1(a).

(ii) **Special Offense Characteristics:** The parties agree that the following Special Offense Characteristics apply to Count One: none.

**CHAPTER THREE ADJUSTMENTS APPLICABLE TO COUNT ONE
(INTERFERENCE WITH INTERSTATE OR FOREIGN COMMERCE BY ROBBERY)**

(i) **Section 3C1.2 Enhancement:** The parties agree that two levels should be added because Defendant recklessly created a substantial risk of death or serious bodily injury to another person in the course of fleeing from a law enforcement officer.

(ii) **Acceptance of Responsibility:** The parties agree that three levels should be deducted pursuant to Section 3E1.1(a) and (b), because Defendant has clearly demonstrated acceptance of responsibility and timely notified the government of Defendant's intention to plead guilty. The parties agree that Defendant's eligibility for this deduction is based upon information presently known. If subsequent to the taking of the guilty plea the government receives new evidence of statements or conduct by Defendant which it believes are

inconsistent with Defendant's eligibility for this deduction, the government may present said evidence to the court, and argue that Defendant should not receive all or part of the deduction pursuant to Section 3E1.1, without violating the plea agreement.

ESTIMATED TOTAL OFFENSE LEVEL FOR COUNT ONE

(i) **Total Offense Level:** The parties estimate that the Total Offense Level for Count One (after determining a combined offense level and applicable adjustments) is 19. Depending on the underlying offense and Defendant's criminal history, Defendant could be a Career Offender pursuant to Section 4B1.1. If the Court finds Defendant is a Career Offender, the Total Offense Level may be higher and the Criminal History Category may be as high as Category VI. Defendant has discussed these possibilities with defense counsel. Both parties reserve the right to argue that Defendant is or is not a Career Offender.

COUNT TWO: BRANDISHING A FIREARM IN FURTHERANCE OF CRIMES OF VIOLENCE

(i) **Base Offense Level:** As to Count Two, the parties recommend that the base offense level is found in Sentencing Guidelines Section 2K2.4(b). Defendant fully understands that Count Two requires he serve a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 84 months (7 years) to run consecutively to any other sentence imposed.

(ii) **Specific Offense Characteristics:** The parties agree that the following Specific Offense Characteristics apply: None.

(iii) **Chapter 3 and 4 Adjustments:** Pursuant to Sentencing Guidelines Section 2K2.4(b), Chapters 3 and 4 of the Sentencing Guidelines do not apply to Count Two. Therefore, as to this count, Defendant is not entitled to the acceptance of responsibility reduction under Sentencing Guidelines Section 3E1.1.

(iv) **Estimated Guidelines:** Based on these recommendations, the parties estimate that the Total Offense Level for Count Two is the minimum term of imprisonment required by statute, 84 months (7 years). The mandatory minimum sentence of 84 months (7 years) must run consecutively to any other term of imprisonment imposed. Depending on the underlying offense and Defendant's criminal history, Defendant could be a Career Offender pursuant to Section 4B1.1. If the Court finds Defendant is a Career Offender, the Guidelines Sentence may be higher and the Criminal History Category may be as high as Category VI. Defendant has discussed these possibilities with defense counsel. Both parties reserve the right to argue that the Defendant is or is not a Career Offender.

COUNTS ONE AND TWO

B. **Criminal History:** The determination of Defendant's Criminal History Category shall be left to the Court. Either party may challenge, before and at sentencing, the finding of the Presentence Report as to Defendant's criminal history and the applicable category. Defendant's criminal history is known to Defendant and is substantially available in the Pretrial Services Report.

C. **Effect of Parties' U.S. Sentencing Guidelines Analysis:** The parties agree that the Court is not bound by the Guidelines analysis agreed to herein. The parties may not have foreseen all applicable Guidelines. The Court may, in its discretion, apply or not apply any Guideline despite the agreement herein and the parties shall not be permitted to withdraw from the plea agreement.

7. **WAIVER OF APPEAL AND POST-CONVICTION RIGHTS:**

A. **Appeal:** The Defendant has been fully apprised by defense counsel of the Defendant's rights concerning appeal and fully understands the right to appeal the sentence under Title 18, United States Code, Section 3742.

(i) **Non-Sentencing Issues:** The parties waive all rights to appeal all non-jurisdictional, non-sentencing issues, including, but not limited to, any issues relating to pretrial motions, discovery and the guilty plea.

(ii) **Sentencing Issues:** In the event the Court accepts the plea and, after determining a Sentencing Guidelines range, sentences Defendant within or below that range, then, as part of this agreement, Defendant hereby waives all rights to appeal all sentencing issues other than Criminal History. Similarly, the United States hereby waives all rights to appeal all sentencing issues other than Criminal History, provided the Court accepts the plea and sentences Defendant to a sentence within or above the Sentencing Guidelines range.

B. **Habeas Corpus:** Defendant agrees to waive all rights to contest the conviction or sentence in any post-conviction proceeding, including one pursuant to Title 28, United States Code, Section 2255, except for claims of prosecutorial misconduct or ineffective assistance of counsel.

C. **Right to Records:** Defendant waives all rights, whether asserted directly or by a representative, to request from any department or agency of the United States any records pertaining to the investigation or prosecution of this case, including any records that may be sought under the Freedom of Information Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 522, or the Privacy Act, Title 5, United States Code, Section 552(a).

8. **OTHER:**

A. **Disclosures Required by the United States Probation Office:** Defendant agrees to truthfully complete and sign forms as required by the United States Probation Office prior to sentencing and consents to the release of these forms and any supporting documentation by the United States Probation Office to the United States.

B. **Civil or Administrative Actions not Barred; Effect on Other Governmental Agencies:** Nothing contained herein limits the rights and authority of the United States to take any civil, tax, immigration/deportation or administrative action against Defendant.

C. **Supervised Release:** Pursuant to any supervised release term, the Court will impose standard conditions upon Defendant and may impose special conditions related to the crime Defendant committed. These conditions will be restrictions on Defendant to which Defendant will be required to adhere. Violation of the conditions of supervised release resulting in revocation may require Defendant to serve a term of imprisonment equal to the length of the term of supervised release, but not greater than the term set forth in Title 18, United States Code, Section 3583(e)(3), without credit for the time served after release. Defendant understands that parole has been abolished.

D. **Mandatory Special Assessment:** This offense is subject to the provisions of the Criminal Fines Improvement Act of 1987 and the Court is required to impose a mandatory special assessment of \$100 per count for a total of \$200, which Defendant agrees to pay at the time of sentencing. Money paid by Defendant toward any restitution or fine imposed by the Court shall be first used to pay any unpaid mandatory special assessment.

E. **Possibility of Detention:** Defendant may be subject to immediate detention pursuant to the provisions of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3143.

F. **Fines and Costs of Incarceration and Supervision:** The Court may impose a fine, costs of incarceration, and costs of supervision. Defendant agrees that any fine imposed by the Court will be due and payable immediately.

G. **Forfeiture:** Defendant agrees to forfeit all of Defendant's interest in all items seized by law-enforcement officials during the course of their investigation and any property, constituting or derived from any proceeds obtained, directly or indirectly, as the result of such offense, and any property used or intended to be used, in any manner or part to commit or to facilitate the commission of such violations, and any firearm or ammunition involved in or intended to be used in such violations.

Defendant admits that all United States currency, weapons, property, and assets seized by law enforcement officials during their investigation constitute the proceeds of Defendant's illegal activity, were commingled with illegal proceeds, or were used to facilitate the illegal activity. Defendant agrees to execute any documents and take all steps needed to transfer title or ownership of said items to the United States and to rebut the claims of nominees and/or alleged third party owners. Defendant further agrees that said items may be disposed of by law enforcement officials in any manner.

9. **ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND WAIVER OF THE DEFENDANT'S RIGHTS:**

In pleading guilty, Defendant acknowledges, fully understands and hereby waives his rights, including but not limited to: the right to plead not guilty to the charges; the right to be tried by a jury in a public and speedy trial; the right to file pretrial motions, including motions

to suppress or exclude evidence; the right at such trial to a presumption of innocence; the right to require the United States to prove the elements of the offenses charged against Defendant beyond a reasonable doubt; the right not to testify; the right not to present any evidence; the right to be protected from compelled self-incrimination; the right at trial to confront and cross-examine adverse witnesses; the right to testify and present evidence and the right to compel the attendance of witnesses. Defendant further understands that by this guilty plea, Defendant expressly waives all the rights set forth in this paragraph.

Defendant fully understands that Defendant has the right to be represented by counsel, and if necessary, to have the Court appoint counsel at trial and at every other stage of the proceeding. Defendant's counsel has explained these rights and the consequences of the waiver of these rights. Defendant fully understands that, as a result of the guilty plea, no trial will, in fact, occur and that the only action remaining to be taken in this case is the imposition of the sentence.

Defendant is fully satisfied with the representation received from defense counsel. Defendant has reviewed the United States' evidence and discussed the United States' case and all possible defenses and defense witnesses with defense counsel. Defense counsel has completely and satisfactorily explored all areas which Defendant has requested relative to the United States' case and any defenses.

10. VOLUNTARY NATURE OF THE GUILTY PLEA AND PLEA AGREEMENT:

This document constitutes the entire agreement between Defendant and the United States, and no other promises or inducements have been made, directly or indirectly, by any

agent of the United States, including any Department of Justice attorney, concerning any plea to be entered in this case. In addition, Defendant states that no person has, directly or indirectly, threatened or coerced Defendant to do or refrain from doing anything in connection with any aspect of this case, including entering a plea of guilty.

Defendant acknowledges having voluntarily entered into both the plea agreement and the guilty plea. Defendant further acknowledges that this guilty plea is made of Defendant's own free will and that Defendant is, in fact, guilty.

11. CONSEQUENCES OF POST-PLEA MISCONDUCT:

After pleading guilty and before sentencing, if Defendant commits any crime, other than minor traffic offenses, violates any conditions of release that results in revocation, violates any term of this guilty-plea agreement, intentionally provides misleading, incomplete or untruthful information to the U.S. Probation Office or fails to appear for sentencing, the United States, at its option, may be released from its obligations under this agreement. The United States may also, in its discretion, proceed with this agreement and may advocate for any sentencing position supported by the facts, including but not limited to obstruction of justice and denial of acceptance of responsibility.


12. NO RIGHT TO WITHDRAW GUILTY PLEA:

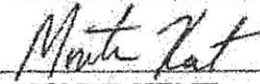
Pursuant to Rule 11(c) and (d), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Defendant understands that there will be no right to withdraw the plea entered under this agreement, except where the Court rejects those portions of the plea agreement which deal with charges the United States agrees to dismiss or not to bring.

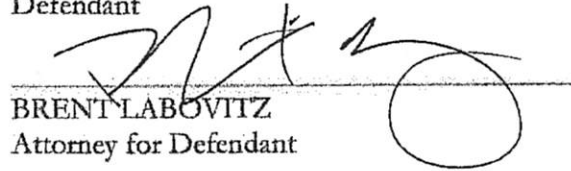
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